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GENEVA CONFERENCE BULLETIN - V

Communist position unchanged in first restricted meeting:  
In a 2 May meeting of the Big Four, Communist China, and North and South Korea, the Communist representatives gave no indication of willingness to modify their previous positions. American officials reported that Molotov was obviously sitting back, letting Chou En-lai and Nam Il take the lead.

The basis for discussion was Secretary Dulles' memorandum listing these four disputed issues blocking the creation of a unified Korea: (1) elections under UN auspices; (2) the scope and character of such elections; (3) the disposition of foreign troops in Korea; and (4) provisions to protect Korea's independence, including the demilitarization of border areas.

Nam Il responded by reiterating his 27 April proposal for all-Korean elections, rejecting any international supervision of such elections, and calling for simultaneous UN-Chinese Communist troop withdrawals within six months. He asked repeatedly how a renewal of the war could be prevented if foreign troops were not withdrawn.

Molotov repeated his support of Nam's proposals, stressing that the Korean problem should be settled by the Koreans themselves, and stated that all foreign troops should be withdrawn "at least three months before elections." He also rejected UN-supervised elections in view of the UN's belligerent status in Korea.

Chou En-lai criticized Dulles' memorandum for its lack of "concrete proposals" and stated flatly that the United States was an aggressor by starting the Korean war and by occupying Formosa. Eden replied his government could never accept the fact that a disarmed South Korea had attacked the north or that the United States, which had withdrawn its troops from Korea, had somehow become an aggressor.

South Korean Foreign Minister Pyun asked Nam whether his proposed all-Korean commission would be based on equality of representation or on the basis of population, pressing Nam for comparative figures on North and South Korean population.

State Dept. review completed

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Nam replied under persistent questioning that the commission should be based upon equal representation, but declined to divulge North Korea's population.

United States prepares draft proposal on Korean unification: The United States government has prepared tentative proposals looking toward settlement of the Korean question which conforms in its essential principles to British and French views on UN observation, elections, and foreign troop withdrawals.

The United States draft calls for (1) the establishment of a united, independent Korea in accordance with the UN General Assembly resolution of 7 October 1950, which established the United Nations Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea (UNCURK) as a supervisory body; (2) free nationwide elections for an all-Korean assembly based on universal adult suffrage in direct proportion to population; (3) the formation of an all-Korean government as the sole legitimate sovereign in Korea under the South Korean constitution as amended by the new assembly; (4) the mutually-phased withdrawal of all foreign forces within 12 months after the establishment of an all-Korean government; (5) mutual pledges by the Korean government, its neighbors, and countries concerned in this agreement to respect the territorial independence and political integrity of Korea; (6) the development of an international rehabilitation program for Korea to which all countries so desiring may contribute; and (7) the modification and supersession of the Korean armistice agreement when the new Korean government has been established with effective control over all Korea and after all foreign forces have been withdrawn.

President Rhee's attitude on this proposal is being awaited. While he has publicly expressed his willingness to hold all-Korean elections for a president, he has been insistent that assembly elections be held only in the north on the grounds that ROK sovereignty must not be destroyed. He is likely, therefore, to oppose this aspect of the plan unless it provides at some point an opportunity for the electorate to adhere to the ROK. Rhee has also insisted that the Chinese withdraw prior to the elections, and it is doubtful that he will readily agree to holding elections prior to withdrawal.

UN side dissuades Philippine delegation from submitting "bombshell" proposal: A 9-nation UN working group on 30 April was finally successful in dissuading the Philippine delegation from submitting a proposal to the Geneva conference providing for "neutral international supervision" of elections for a

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"constitutional convention." The plan called for the election of one delegate for each 200,000 population, under an election law to be determined by the Geneva conferees, to draft a new Korean constitution. South Korean Ambassador Yang strongly reminded the group that the sovereignty of his government must be upheld and American officials warned that the Philippine plan envisaged a supervisory body like the Neutral Nation Supervisory Commission which had created great difficulties in the implementation of the Korean armistice agreement.

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